

**ROUTERS FOR SWITCHING ATM CELLS IN A PACKET-LIKE  
MANNER USING A PACKET SWITCH**

**ABSTRACT**

5           A technique for disguising ATM cells as ATM cell-containing packets within  
a routing facility to permit the packet-only switch to also handle switching of the  
ATM cells. The technique has wide applications within the backbone infrastructure,  
Wide Area Networks, Metro Area Networks, Local Area Networks, and particularly  
within a routing facility to handle high speed traffic. The technique can receive both  
10   ATM cells and packets for switching via a single channel or optical fiber or receive  
ATM cells and packets via two separate channels or two separate fibers. The ability  
to handle both ATM cell and packet switching allows packet-only routers to handle  
ATM traffic, thereby reducing the cost of the switching infrastructure for network  
operators.